

I will be glad, if you wish, to describe the terrible ordeal and torture that I went through. I lost my right hand and my right ear when a rebel chopped them off with a machete.

No, I want instead to direct your attention to my young colleagues who traveled with me from the Murry Town Amputee Camp in our capital city of Freetown. Unlike me, they have suffered much even before they could begin really formalizing their dreams for a bright future. The two youngest with us are only four years old. And these three girls here are only eight, nine and ten years old.

Since I read and write in English I sometimes see articles in foreign newspapers or magazines stating that the war in Sierra Leone must be a tribal war, or maybe a religious war. Religion and tribal affiliation have nothing to do with why we are now without our limbs.

If it were a tribal war, you would not see in front of you representatives of our country's major ethnic groups, including Temne and Mende. Those amputated by the rebels include every ethnic group in Sierra Leone. If it were a religious war, you would not have both Christians and Muslims sitting here in front of you. Christians and Muslims have suffered equally at the hands of rebel forces.

The war is not tribal, and it is not religious. It is simply largely a war over control of diamonds. Little pieces of rock that people around the world like to wear on their fingers and hang from their ears. As you can see, because of these rocks I no longer have an ear or five of my fingers. And the victims you see in front of you are examples of what has happened when the people and the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone did not allow the rebels to keep control of the entire country.

Twenty thousand men, women and children have suffered the same excruciating pain and suffering as the eight of us sitting before you. Imagine the kind of people who would do this to Memunatu or Mohammed. What in the world did they do to anyone? Or Bintu, Damba or Fatu here? Or any of the rest of us? How can human beings do this to other human beings? And how can humanity allow this to continue to go on?

At home in Freetown, our hopes rise and fall with news of announcements from the United States, Europe or the UN. However, while Congressional committees and the parliaments of the world discuss and debate the issue of Sierra Leone, the suffering continues to spread. Children like those before you—Memunatu and Mohammed and Bintu and Damba—these are the victims of inaction and delay.

I am here to ask you for help in bringing the killing and maiming to an end. I am here to ask you to do everything in your power to protect the youngest and most innocent of God's creation from this terrible manifestation of man's worst greed. For if you allow this new form of systematic and widespread terrorism to be tolerated in Sierra Leone, it can happen again in some other country in the future.

Since I am not a politician, my goal is not to engage in politics. My interest is in helping the children of my country have a chance to live normal, healthy lives. This is a right that has been brutally taken away from those you see in front of you today. We will need help in rebuilding these as well since all of our schools and hospitals have been damaged or destroyed. But the rebuilding process cannot begin in earnest until we can begin living without fear.

Again, I thank you for the chance to come to Congress to plead the case of Sierra Leone's amputees. May God bless you and show you the way to help us.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN SIDNEY R. YATES

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate the wonderful life of our colleague, Sid Yates. He served here for almost fifty years and left an indelible mark on this institution.

I was privileged to serve with Sid as a part of the Illinois delegation for nineteen of my twenty-one years in Congress and on the House Appropriations Committee for eighteen. I will never know another public official more dedicated, astute, well-prepared and forceful in his work. I may often not have agreed with him, but I always respected him. He stood up and fought for the things he believed in. There can be no higher compliment paid to a member of this institution.

As Sid got into his eighties, many Republicans from his district would come to me and say, "Well, Sid Yates must be less vigorous, more forgetful, and less attentive to his legislative duties now." I would have to tell them that was not at all the case. Right into the final days of his time in Congress, Sid was still in the forefront of debates and issues before the Appropriations Committee. If I can be half as sharp as Sid Yates was on reaching the same age, I will be thankful indeed.

DAVE OBEY has said repeatedly that in his thirty-six years in Congress nothing can compare to the debate between Sid Yates and Eddie Boland during a mark-up in the full appropriations committee regarding federal support for the construction of an American Super Sonic Transport (SST). Sid opposed this construction while Eddie was determined to facilitate it. They debated each other for over an hour and held the attention of every member of the committee. Both men were articulate and earnest in their positions. It was incredible to watch. At the end, together they received a standing ovation from the entire committee. This is an event that has gone down in the lore of the House, and it is ironic that in the year of Sid's death, the European version of the SST is grounded and unlikely to return to service.

We send to Sid's wife and family our sorrow in his loss, but celebrate the life of an extraordinary man dedicated to his country, to his principles, to public service as the highest of callings and to this institution.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 2559, THE FY 2001 TRANSPORTATION APPROPRIATIONS ACT (CONFERENCE REPORT), H.R. 3244, THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT CONFERENCE REPORT, AND THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Transportation Appropriations conference report, the Trafficking

Victims Protection Act conference report, and the Violence Against Women Act, which was included in that bill.

As many people in my home state of Missouri know all too well, our infrastructure is crumbling. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we have the 6th worst roads and bridges in the country. That is why I am so pleased that this conference report passed the House today, and even more pleased that it contained more than \$70 million in discretionary funds to directly address the tremendous needs in our state. I want to thank Subcommittee Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member SABO for taking such great steps to address our infrastructure needs. And I also want to give special thanks to Congresswoman JOANN EMERSON for working so tirelessly to bring to the attention of the Members of the Committee Missouri's dire road situation. She has been a wonderful advocate on the Committee and I greatly appreciate her efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express my support for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act conference report and the Violence Against Women Act, which was included in that bill. More than a million women and children are trafficked around the world for sex and other exploitative purposes every year—50,000 of which end up right here in the United States. This bill includes several measures which will strengthen current law to cut down on the unlawful buying and selling of human beings for profit. I'm very pleased that the house was able to come together to address this fundamental issue of human rights.

Finally, I want to give my warmest thanks to all of those who have so strongly supported re-authorization of the Violence Against Women Act, which I cosponsor. In my home state of Missouri, one out of every two women who seek a domestic violence shelter are turned away at the door because there simply is not enough room. These women are turned away from shelter with no option but to go back to their abuser. Mr. Speaker, this is a tragedy. In terms of legislation that affects real people's lives, I can think of none which is more important. Passage of this bill ensures that women will continue to have access to the important basic services, which have helped so many escape their situations. Continued authorization of this program says to women in America that there is a better tomorrow and that we are dedicated to helping you find it.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that these two important pieces of legislation passed overwhelmingly here today.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND CRAIG B. GADDY, SR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Craig B. Gaddy, Sr., of the Friendship Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

I honor Reverend Gaddy today in celebration of his first anniversary as Pastor of the Friendship Baptist Church. Mr. Speaker, Reverend Gaddy is deserving of our praise because he has served as a pillar of our community, having devoted his life to serving the needs of others.

He is the son of Sister Lucille A. Gaddy, who he describes as "my rock, my sword and shield." Reverend Gaddy is also the proud father of Nyesha J. Gaddy, and Craig Jr. He is the brother of Eric, James, Michael, Debra, David Jr., Tracey, Tyrone, Michelle, Tonya, Pamela and Theresa. Mr. Speaker, the entire Gaddy family has been blessed with excellence, greatness, the favor of God, love and honor, the law of kindness in tongue, morality and character. All of these amazing attributes are the result of a God-centered life.

Under the watchful eye of the late Reverend Dr. D. W. Batts, Reverend Gaddy received his license to preach the gospel in 1982 at the Greater Free Gift Baptist Church. In 1986 he received his ordination proper by Dr. Batts and the Eastern Baptist Association. In 1989 he was assigned to the Southern Baptist Church in New York City under the pastorate of the Reverend Eugene King, where he served as youth minister. In 1997, he was elected Assistant Pastor at the Southern Baptist Church where he served faithfully until 1999.

On June 26, 1999, Reverend Gaddy was called to pastor the Friendship Baptist Church. There, he continued in the footsteps of a truly great pastor, the late Reverend Dr. U.B. Whitfield. Reverend Gaddy serves with the National Baptist Association, the Empire State Association, the Eastern Baptist Association, and the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Craig Gaddy, Sr. is more than worthy of receiving this honor, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in recognizing this truly remarkable man.

GILMAN ENDORSES LAZIO RESOLUTION DEMANDING THAT PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE END, H. CON. RES. 418

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring a timely resolution sponsored by our colleague from New York, Mr. LAZIO. H. Con. Res. 418 expresses the sense of the Congress regarding the current level of violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The bill responds to this most serious of Palestinian violations of the Oslo process by condemning the violence, and demands that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat make a public appeal on Palestinian television for an end to these destructive acts. However, the fact that he has not yet done so speaks volumes about Chairman Arafat's true intentions.

The United States has consistently supported a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but this latest outburst is the worst we have seen in years. There is clear evidence that the violence was pre-meditated and coordinated by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. It seems to me that there can be no more flagrant disavowal of the Oslo process than this instigation of violence, because the very foundation of the Accords that were signed by the Israelis and Palestinians since 1993 underscores that the only avenue for the resolution of differences is negotiation, not confrontation.

H. Con. Res. 418 urges the President to use all of the diplomatic means available to our government to seek and end to the violence and return the Palestinians to the negotiating table. It expresses congressional support for the Israeli government's efforts to bring this current round of violence to a peaceful conclusion, since the current Israeli government has made it patently clear that it is prepared to make historic compromises for the sake of peace. We need now to determine whether Yasser Arafat, representing the Palestinian people, feels the same way.

H. Con. Res. 418 also urges this Administration to oppose any anti-Israel efforts at the United Nations, including the establishment of an international commission of inquiry; and puts Yasser Arafat and the Palestinians on notice that their response to this escalation of violence affects their future relations with the United States.

Accordingly, I ask that a copy of the measure be printed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for our colleagues' review, and urge them to contact Rep. LAZIO's office at their earliest opportunity to cosponsor this important resolution.

H. CON. RES. 418

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LAZIO (for himself, Mr. GILMAN, and Mr. REYNOLDS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the current level of violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Whereas the United States has consistently supported the peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict;

Whereas the current level of violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians is the worst in years;

Whereas the current round of violence comes at a time when the Israeli Government is prepared to make historic compromises towards peace;

Whereas there is clear evidence that this violence was a pre-meditated and coordinated action by the Palestinian Authority;

Whereas the active participation of armed uniformed Palestinian police in attacks against Israelis is an indication of the unwillingness of the Palestinian Authority to work towards a halt to this violence;

Whereas the Palestinian Authority's encouragement of violence is a violation of the underlying basis on which the entire Oslo peace process has been built, particularly the incitement by Palestinian television;

Whereas the Palestinians are mounting a concerted international campaign to justify the violence by blaming Israel; and

Whereas the Palestinian renunciation of violence in the Oslo peace process does not provide any basis for the justification of the resumption of violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, statements and actions by Palestinians designed to inflame and encourage violence;

(2) demands that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat make a public appeal on Palestinian television for the public to cease further acts of violence;

(3) urges the President to use all of the diplomatic means available to the United States Government to seek an end to the violence and return the Palestinians to the negotiating table;

(4) strongly supports actions by the Israeli Government designed to bring this current round of violence to a peaceful conclusion;

(5) urges the Administration to oppose—

(A) any United Nations effort to put forward one-sided anti-Israel resolutions or statements; and

(B) the establishment of any international commission of inquiry; and

(6) will consider the response of Palestinians to the escalation of violence in their future relations with the United States.

THE BROWARD COUNTY SCHOOLS
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AWARD

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commendable achievement of the Broward County Public School District of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Broward County Schools, which I am proud to represent, is one of only seven school districts in the country to be recognized by the United States Department of Education National Awards Program for Model Professional Development. Indeed, the remarkable efforts of the teachers, professional staff, and administrators of this, the nation's largest fully accredited public school district are fully deserving of this recognition.

Professional development for teachers—learning experiences which increase teachers' knowledge base and classroom skills—is a crucial ingredient to improving public education in America. The National Awards Program for Model Professional Development rewards and honors outstanding professional development programs and showcases effective professional development practices to help schools to learn from each other.

In establishing its professional development program called "Professional Pathways," the Broward County School District sought to meet the unique needs of its diverse multi-cultural population. Because of the complex demographic characteristics of the district's student population which represent 159 countries and speak 53 languages, the program had to achieve ambitious goals. High standards were set and professional accountability was demanded. Accordingly, Professional Pathways requires all professionals to write annual professional development goals that are aligned with the school's improvement plan and to provide the district with annual program reviews. Professional development opportunities for staff members include individual training school-based activities, and certain district mandated training. Moreover, Professional Pathways ensures that staff development is long-term, based on research, relates to school improvement, and addresses both student and teacher needs.

As a result of this ongoing initiative, since 1996, state writing assessment scores have increased in elementary grades and state mathematics assessment scores have increased in all levels, K-12. In addition, the district's average Scholastic Achievement Test scores and average American College Test scores have increased since 1997. Advanced Placement Test results indicate that the average score of district students increased 4.6 points over the previous year, compared to the statewide increase of 1.7 points.

Mr. Speaker, let me again congratulate and commend the instructional and professional